

Senate Resolution 115 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY COURNOYER

1 A Resolution urging the Governor and the Director
2 of the Department of Transportation to develop
3 plans for the new Interstate 80 bridge over the
4 Mississippi River in Scott County that include the
5 incorporation of the Bison Bridge.

6 WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Transportation,
7 in partnership with the Illinois Department of
8 Transportation, and in conjunction with the Federal
9 Highway Administration (FHWA), desires to replace the
10 Interstate 80 bridge over the Mississippi River in
11 Scott County; and

12 WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Transportation
13 will be the lead agency, with Iowa and Illinois sharing
14 costs equally; and

15 WHEREAS, on October 21, 2020, the Illinois
16 Department of Transportation selected Parsons
17 Transportation Group, Inc. to prepare a combined design
18 report and environmental impact statement for the
19 Interstate 80 bridge over the Mississippi River; and

20 WHEREAS, Parsons Transportation Group, Inc. was
21 additionally tasked with determining, as part of the
22 design report, whether the proposed improvements
23 could include total bridge replacement and whether
24 a new and wider bridge should be constructed on a
25 different alignment, along with various alternatives
26 to be studied to reach the most viable solution
27 for this corridor, including but not limited to
28 exploring potential effects on existing state highway

1 interchanges with Interstate 80 on both the Iowa and
2 Illinois side of the bridge, which also crosses the
3 Canadian Pacific Railroad, as the project develops; and

4 WHEREAS, as part of Phase 1 of the project, the
5 Bison Bridge Foundation requested, as an alternative
6 plan, repurposing the existing Interstate 80 bridge,
7 which possibly could save over \$30 million by
8 eliminating the need to remove the existing bridge and
9 not requiring implementation of a multi-use facility on
10 the proposed new bridge; and

11 WHEREAS, by repurposing the existing bridge, in
12 addition to offering savings to taxpayers, the Bison
13 Bridge Project has the potential to generate additional
14 moneys from increased tourism, economic development,
15 improved quality of life, and the retention of the
16 younger workforce in the area; and

17 WHEREAS, the Bison Bridge Foundation has shown
18 willingness to accept the existing structure at no cost
19 to the Iowa Department of Transportation and is willing
20 to work with both the Illinois and Iowa Departments of
21 Transportation and the FHWA to provide a bridge that
22 is conducive to the promotion of its goals to attract
23 tourism, increase economic development, provide a
24 multi-use facility, and promote the Mississippi River
25 area; and

26 WHEREAS, the Bison Bridge Foundation proposes this
27 project at no cost to the departments of transportation
28 or the FHWA; instead, funding for this project will be
29 accomplished by private and corporate donations; NOW
30 THEREFORE,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Iowa
2 Senate urges the Governor and the Director of the
3 Department of Transportation to develop plans for the
4 new Interstate 80 bridge structure that include the
5 incorporation of the Bison Bridge; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
7 resolution be delivered to the Governor, the Director
8 of the Department of Transportation, and the Bison
9 Bridge Foundation.